

Pre-Application Technical Assistance Reports for the Access to Recovery Grant Program

Report on Technical Assistance to Iowa

May 2004

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Consultation between Jean LaCour and the State of Iowa Final Report- May 2004

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Introduction (Purpose of TA)

The State of Iowa requested assistance with

- 1) Integrating faith-based organizations into recovery support services .
- 2) Integrating faith-based organizations into current licensed programs by adding faith language.

Methodology

The consultation included both pre and post conference telephone calls to clarify the unique needs of the State regarding faith-based providers. These two pre and post calls totaled approximately one half hour and set the context for a teleconference.

The teleconference, which took place on May 13, 2004, lasted approximately one hour. Jean LaCour participated with the following individuals from Iowa:

Janet Zwick, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Public Health
Diana Nicholls-Blomme, Program Planner III, Iowa Department of Public Health
Sarai Schnucker Beck, Executive Director, Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa

Content of TA Discussion and Recommendation

The State clarified that Iowa licenses substance abuse programs and certifies individuals through the Iowa Board of Substance Abuse Certification.

Iowa is similar to the state of Florida regarding licensure and certification and this led to a series of discussions around training issues and opportunities that might have similar application in Iowa. The State currently has licensed treatment programs that are faith-based and sees the need for faith-based Recovery Support Services.

A. Goals for the State include involving faith-based and non-traditional providers in Recovery Support Services in the following ways:

1. Screening clients at point of contact and assisting them to get assessed .
2. Mentoring clients while in treatment.
3. Aftercare following treatment.

Recommendations:

1. Provide faith-based workshops on the basics of substance abuse using the language of faith as well as the role of faith and spirituality in recovery.
2. Give practical guidelines to avoid faith communities being taken advantage of by the criminal element or manipulative aspect of addicts.
3. Provide training in how to work with governmental agencies.
4. Give CEU's for training modules so that faith-based individuals can have valuable certificates that are building blocks toward future certification.
5. Consider new categories of recognition or certification for Recovery Support.

B. The State intends to involve clinical treatment staff that have a faith background to:

1. Be mentors to faith-based recovery support providers.
2. Introduce faith language into clinical treatment programs.

Recommendations:

1. Involve faith-friendly clinicians who can lead training effort in developing a viable faith-based substance abuse presence in the State.
2. Support individuals with clergy background to develop recovery chaplaincy program in clinical settings.
3. Provide interactive faith-based workshop to build "buy in" in the cross walk between clinical treatment and recovery support services.

C. The State intends to:

1. Set standards for Recovery Support Services.
2. Motivate new innovative aftercare programs.
3. Address needs of rural areas.

Recommendations:

1. Implement Safety Standards and Background checks as planned.
2. Investigate standards published by CARF in the area of Behavioral Health for Community Housing, Case Management, Drop in Programs, etc.
3. Use AA network across the State to identify potential aftercare beds, particularly in rural areas.
4. Require and provide training for individuals in rural areas who open their homes to provide aftercare beds.

Outcomes

The State will be checking resources for recovery support services and for training materials on several websites including: www.carf.org and www.samhsa.gov.

Background of Consultant for the Iowa Teleconference

Jean LaCour, PhD, CAPP, is president and co-founder of the NET Training Institute, Inc., a school for Counseling and Addiction Studies in Orlando, Florida. Founded in 1996, as a nonprofit corporation, the Institute has trained over one thousand students who desire to serve the wounded, the addicted, the marginalized and the poor. The Institute provides both Christ centered and faith-based professional level training in addiction, prevention, counseling, and recovery support services. The Institute offers live instruction, home studies courses, and contracts with organizations desiring to improve recovery support services in their own communities.

Dr. Robert R. Perkinson (*Chemical Dependency: A Practical Guide*, Sage Pub.) and Dr. LaCour have co-authored a complete faith-based addiction certificate counselor training with video & support materials (available early 2005). The curriculum will be available with CEU's.

The NET Institute is a recognized training provider for three IC&RC boards, Florida, Georgia, and the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities, and nationally for NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals.

Internationally Dr. LaCour has trained in a dozen nations including Egypt, Pakistan and India. She serves with leaders from seven other nations on the Leadership Council of ISAAC, the International Substance Abuse and Addiction Coalition based in England.

Nationally she serves as a member of the steering committee for SAMHSA's "Partners For Recovery" initiative. In 2004, her expertise in faith-based substance abuse organizations led to her invitation to be on the faculty of panelists in four states for CSAT's Pre-Application Technical Assistance meetings for "Access to Recovery" voucher program.

Regionally she is on the Southern Coast ATTC workgroup charged with developing effective collaboration between faith-based and secular clinical based treatment organizations. The workgroup's briefing paper is one of the first in the nation to provide practical tools and guidelines for effective partnerships in the substance abuse field.

In Orlando Dr. LaCour is co-chair of the Faith Committee of the Orange County Coalition for a Drug Free Community. She co-hosts an annual faith-based recovery conference which draws national speakers and dozens of faith-based recovery support ministries. Ordained to ministry in 1994, she received the Arno Award for Outstanding Contribution to pastoral counseling by the NCCA. In 1999, she was recognized by Florida NAADAC as Professional of the Year for her

pioneering work in promoting faith-based addiction training, including professional counselor certification and program development for recovery ministries.